United Nations DP/CCF/KUW/1/EXTENSION 1

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.: General
13 November 2000

Original: English

First regular session 2001
29 January-6 February 2001, New York
Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Country cooperation frameworks and related matters

Extension of the first country cooperation framework for Kuwait

Note by the Administrator

Period of extension: 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001

1. The first country cooperation framework (CCF) for Kuwait was approved by the Executive Board at its third regular session 1997 for the period 1997 to 2000.

2. The implementation of the CCF had a late start in 1997 and continued at a slow pace in 1998 as a result of reshuffling of top civil servants at the Ministry of Planning and the rapid turnover of key staff. It picked up slowly during the second half of 1999. Since early 2000, however, temporary changes at the senior management level in the country office have further affected the approval pace and implementation of the programme. At this juncture, it is strongly believed that the intended results of the CCF will not be reached by the end of 2000 as planned.

3. The objectives of the CCF — to create an enabling environment and promote capacity-building for sustainable human development, to strengthen the role of the private sector, to redress imbalances in the national labour force, to improve education and training systems and to reinforce the national planning system — are still in line with the broad development objectives of the country.

4. The country review conducted in February 2000 confirmed that the priorities set in the first CCF remain valid. The exercise revealed that UNDP initiatives have been successful and have helped to enhance information-sharing and coordination between the Government and United Nations activities. Particular emphasis was placed on the greater consultative role that UNDP is playing with the Government and the more active engagement of the Government in the formulation and implementation of programmes. It is worth noting that socio-economic studies, seminars and training to strengthen the national planning system were extended to the Ministry of Planning and several other line ministries. A communication protocol study linking all planning sectors in the Government is currently being

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implemented. The World Bank and UNDP have recently agreed to launch a study/survey whose aim it will be to enhance the role of the private sector and to address the country's labour market imbalances.

5. The expected adoption of the five-year national plan by the National Assembly in late 2000 and the submittal of the economic and social development plan for Kuwait will allow UNDP, through the one-year extension, to formulate a new focused CCF in 2001 that will clearly target articulated national priorities.

6. The Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the first country cooperation framework for Kuwait for a period of one year, from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001.